

# MRT Corp CEO clarifies tender evaluation process

**KUALA LUMPUR:** MY Rapid Transit (MRT) Corporation chief executive officer Datuk Azhar Abdul Hamid clarified that he had not said that MRT Corp preferred local companies to participate in the construction of the country's largest public transport infrastructure project.

In a clarification to Business Times report yesterday, Azhar said: "I strongly deny having said what has been attributed to me in the story. While I have said before that cost and the fact that a company is Malaysian are important factors, they are merely two of many factors which are taken into account during tender evaluation.

"In fact, what I have often maintained is that cost is not the principal consideration in the tender evaluation process.

"Further, to further suggest that all foreign bidders have been excluded (solely because they are not Malaysian) from being considered when the tender evaluation process is still being carried out is grossly irresponsible.

"Further, MRT Corp has repeatedly emphasised that the tender process is open, and all bids will be evaluated based on merits with full transparency. I wish to remind you that the One Stop Procurement Committee (OSPC), which deliberates and decides on the successful bids, is chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak himself.

"I trust you appreciate the potential grave implications of publishing this unverified quote as far as ensuring the integrity of the tender process for the country's largest public transport infrastructure project is concerned," he said in a statement.